

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 656

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRYANT, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, CARPENTER, WILFORD
CARTER, CHASSION, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, DANA HENRY, TRAVIS
JOHNSON, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, MOORE, MURRAY, NEWELL,
TAYLOR, WALTERS, WILEY, AND YOUNG

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:830.4, relative to programming for inmates; to provide for the
3 establishment of a pilot program; to provide for programming topics; to provide for
4 attendance and accessibility; to provide for duties of the Department of Public Safety
5 and Corrections; to provide for rulemaking; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 15:830.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §830.4. Access to Programming Pilot Program; establishment

9 A. Subject to the availability of funds and appropriate resources, the
10 Department of Public Safety and Corrections is hereby authorized to establish the
11 Access to Programming Pilot Program, to be administered by inmates who are
12 qualified and approved by the department, for the purpose of making programming
13 available to all of the following:

14 (1) Juvenile offenders.

15 (2) Inmates sentenced to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
16 who are in the custody of the sheriff at a parish prison or jail.

17 B. The programming shall include all of the following topics:

18 (1) Rehabilitation services that encompass educational and vocational
19 opportunities.

20 (2) Mental health services.

21 (3) Suicide awareness and prevention.

22 C. The department shall provide attendance options as follows:

23 (1) Through simultaneous audio-visual transmission for juveniles housed in
24 juvenile facilities.

1 (2) In-person or through simultaneous audio-visual transmission for inmates
 2 housed in parish prisons or jails.

3 D. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall adopt rules and
 4 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the
 5 provisions of this Section.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____